

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter amendments to previously added claims 49 and 50. This listing of claims replaces all previous listings.

Claims 1-10. (Previously Canceled)

Claim 11. (Previously Amended) An expression vector including nucleic acid encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ I.D. NO: 2 or SEQ I.D. NO: 4 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 70% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ. I.D. NO: 2 or SEQ I.D. No: 4.

Claim 12. (Original) The expression vector of claim 11 wherein said nucleic acid is in the antisense orientation.

Claim 13. (Previously Amended) The expression vector of claim 11 wherein said protein is pro-apoptotic .

Claim 14. (Previously Amended) The expression vector of claim 11 wherein said protein suppresses apoptosis and/or induces proliferation in a cell in which it is expressed .

Claim 15. (Previously Amended) A host cell comprising introduced nucleic acid encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ I.D. NO:2 or SEQ I.D. NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 70% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ. I.D. NO:2 or SEQ I.D. NO:4.

Claim 16. (Previously Amended) The host cell of claim 15 wherein said nucleic acid encodes a pro-apoptotic protein.

Claim 17. (Previously Amended) The host cell of claim 15 wherein said nucleic acid encodes a protein that suppresses apoptosis and/or induces proliferation in the host cell .

Claims 18-22 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 23. (Previously Amended) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 24. (Previously Amended) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from residue 1 to residue 1152 or of SEQ ID NO:4 from residue 1 to 1173, or having an amino acid sequence having at least about 70% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from residue 1 to residue 1152 or of SEQ ID NO:4 from residue 1 to residue 1173.

Claim 25. (Original) The expression vector of claim 24, wherein said polypeptide suppresses apoptosis and/or induces proliferation in a cell in which it is expressed.

Claim 26. (Original) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence having at least 70% identity to nucleotides 62 to 5128 of SEQ ID NO:1 or nucleotides 87 to 5183 of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 27. (Original) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence having at least about 70% identity to nucleotides 62 to 3517 of SEQ. ID NO:1 or to nucleotides 87 to 3615 of SEQ. ID NO:4.

Claims 28-33 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 34. (Previously Amended) A method for producing a protein, comprising culturing a host cell of claim 15 under conditions suitable for expression of said introduced nucleic acid .

Claims 35-36 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 37. (Previously Amended) A method for screening an agent for effect on the cell cycle of a cell, comprising contacting a host cell of claim 15 with the agent and assessing the effect of the agent on the cell.

Claim 38. (Previously Amended) A method of claim 37 wherein the introduced nucleic acid is introduced DNA encoding a pro-apoptotic protein.

Claim 39. (Previously Amended) A method of claim 38, wherein the introduced DNA comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 40. (Previously Amended) A method of claim 38, wherein the introduced DNA comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 41. (Previously Added) A method of claim 37, wherein the introduced nucleic acid is introduced DNA encoding a protein that suppresses apoptosis and/or induces proliferation in the host cell.

Claim 42. (Previously Added) A method of claim 38, wherein the host cell is a cardiomyocyte.

Claim 43. (Previously Added) A method of claim 41, wherein the host cell is a cardiomyocyte.

Claim 44. (Previously Added) A method for making a host cell, comprising genetically transducing a cell with an expression vector according to claim 11.

Claim 45. (Previously Added) A host cell of claim 15, which is a cardiomyocyte.

Claim 46. (Previously Added) A host cell of claim 16, which is a cardiomyocyte.

Claim 47. (Previously Added) A host cell of claim 17, which is a cardiomyocyte.

Claim 48. (Previously Added) A host cell of claim 17, wherein the protein is a truncation mutant.

Claim 49. (Currently Amended) A host cell of claim 15, wherein said introduced nucleic acid encodes a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ I.D. NO:2 or SEQ I.D. NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 90 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 50. (Currently Amended) An expression vector of claim 11, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ I.D. NO:2 or SEQ I.D. NO:4 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 90 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.